

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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APPROVED BY EB/OA:JSMEADOWS

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CAB - MR. LITTON

ARA/APU - MR. TONKIN

----- 116096

R 312222Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - US-ARGENTINE ARRANGEMENT

REF: BA 6394, AND 6468

1. DEPT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S HELPFUL ASSESSMENT REGARD-
ING CONVOLUTIONS OF GOA ASSESSMENT OF BILATERAL MEMO OF
UNDERSTANDING. WE DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY ARGENTINES
THINK TEXT OF 1947 AGREEMENT HAS ANY LEGAL STATUS WHATSOEVER,
BUT IF IN SOME FUTURE CONSULTATIONS THEY WISH TO TABLE
IT THEY ARE FREE TO DO SO.

2. OUR PRESENT CONCERN CENTERS ON APPARENT ARGENTINE INTEN-
TION TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE US CARRIERS AND IF POS-
SIBLE TO PLAY THEM OFF AGAINST USG PRIOR TO CALLING FOR
FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. TO FORESTALL SUCH A POSSIBILITY
EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE BOTH PAN AM AND BRANIFF REPS TO
STRENUOUSLY REFRAIN FROM BEING DRAWN INTO SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA AUTHORITIES. THEY SHOULD ADHERE TO
POSITION THAT QUESTIONS SUCH AS FREQUENCIES, CAPACITY, ETC.,
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ARE NOW ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND THAT THIS

PRECLUDES ANYDISCUSSION BY THEM EITHER WITH GOVT
OR WITH AEROLINEAS. WE ARE GIVING SAME ADVICE TO WASHINGT
REPS.

3. AT THIS POINT WE PREFER TO PLAY PASSIVE ROLE, AND
AWAIT GOA OVERTURES. NEVERTHELESS IF DRAWN INTO DISCUS-
SION WITH FONOFF OR MEMBERS INTER-AGENCY STUDY GROUP,
EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE POSITION THAT USG HAS ADHERED TO THE
UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED IN DECEMBER 1972; THAT LESS THAN
18 MONTHS REMAIN UNTIL PERIOD COVERED BY UNDERSTANDINGS
EXPIRES, AND THAT IF EXPERIENCE BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER
1974 PROVES UNSATISFACTORY WE CAN THEN CONSIDER WHAT
FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED.

4. IF GOA ASKS FOR CONSULTATIONS NOW, OR AS INDICATED IN
BA 6468 ASKS FOR FURTHER TIME TO STUDY, EMBASSY SHOULD
EXPRESS USG'S STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT THAT AFTER ALL THIS
TIME GOA IS STILL NOT DISPOSED TO HONOR COMMITMENT AND TO
LET CARRIERS OPERATE AS CONTEMPLATED IN MOU. WE THINK GOA
HAS OBLIGATION TO APPROVE TWO ADDITIONAL PASSENGER FRE-
QUENCIES WHICH IT AGREED WOULD BE AUTHORIZED JULY 1 AND
TWO REGULAR CARGO FREQUENCIES.

5. FYI: WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT
REGARDING RELATIVE STRENGTH OF FOREIGN OFFICE MODERATES
VERSUS DNTAC HAWKS SUCH AS WITTE. IF HAWKS ARE IN ASCEND-
ENCY PERHAPS BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO TAKE FIRM STANCE
NOW AND INSIST THAT THE TWO ADDITIONAL CARGO FREQUENCIES
BE AUTHORIZED, PARTICULARLY IF GOA PROPOSES TO DRAG OUT
ITS CONCEPT OF STATUS QUO UNTIL NOV. 30. IF, IN CON-
TRAST, THERE ARE INFLUENCES REALLY WORKING TOWARD BRINGING
GOA TO ABIDE BY MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING, DOES EMBASSY
BELIEVE IT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO TAKE SO
HARD A LINE? ROGERS

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